

**Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Food Business and Related Services Task Force**

***Latest Development of the Administrative Scheme to Regulate
Recycling of Waste Cooking Oils from Licensed Food Premises***

Purpose

This paper updates members on the latest development of the administrative scheme to regulate recycling of Waste Cooking Oils (WCO) from licensed food premises, since the Food Business and Related Services Task Force (FRSTF) meeting held on 12 October 2015.

Background

2. To prevent WCO from re-entering the food chain, thereby safeguarding public health and promote recycling of WCO, the Government proposes to introduce legislative / administrative regulatory measures to ensure the legitimate recycling of WCO generated by local licensed food premises. Prior to the proposed legislative amendment of the Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354), the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) have jointly implemented an administrative scheme to regulate recycling of WCO. Before implementation of the scheme, EPD and FEHD consulted FRSTF at its meetings on 6 June 2015 and 12 October 2015 vide FRSTF papers 40 and 43 respectively. In general, FRSTF supported the scheme but was concerned about the availability of enough registered WCO collectors. FRSTF also suggested a grace period of 12 months should be given for the trade to make preparations for the new arrangements.

Latest Development of the Administrative Scheme

3. EPD launched a free WCO recycling administrative registration scheme in February 2016 to register local eligible WCO collectors, processors

and exporters and require them to comply with the requirements stipulated in the Good Practice Guide issued by the EPD, including proper collection and handling of the collected WCO as well as maintaining good transaction records. Up to the end of September 2016, EPD has approved nearly 120 applications for registration. Updates of new registrations and other related information will be published on EPD's website for reference by the public and the trade.

4. On source management of WCO, since July 2016, FEHD has started to inform the licensees / licence applicants of restaurants, factory canteens, food factories and bakeries in writing by phases the imposition of the additional licensing condition upon renewal / issue of the licences requiring them to hand over their WCO to collector(s), processor(s) or exporter(s) registered or licensed by EPD for proper collection and disposal. WCO collection records showing dates and quantities of oils collected and the names and addresses of the collector / processor / exporter shall be kept and be readily available for inspection and making copies when required by FEHD.

5. Taking into consideration the views collected from public and trade consultation, the new licensing condition will take effect 15 months after the written notification to allow sufficient time for the trade to make necessary preparations. During the 15-month grace period, FEHD will strengthen publicity and education on the new initiative as to facilitate compliance by the trade prior to enforcement action of the licensing condition.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to note and offer comments on the content of this paper.

**Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Environmental Protection Department
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